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**RECEIVED**

OCT 28 2005

**Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary**

TO: Commission's Secretary  
Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors,  
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

cc: Copies rec'd  
List A B C D E

044



October 28, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC, 20554

**RECEIVED**

OCT 28 2005

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors,  
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Martin:

We write today to urge you to reappoint Dr. Brian L. Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors as the representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to submit this nomination.

Dr. Talbott currently serves as Chairman of the USAC Board, represents schools on the Board's Schools and Libraries Committee, serves as an at-large member of the Rural Health Care Committee, and as an observer on the Audit and High Cost/Low Income Committees. We feel that he is a tremendous asset to the Board and to the entire universal service program.

As executive director of the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA), Dr. Talbott brings a wealth of information about the technology needs of both public and private schools and libraries to this position. The members of AESA work in collaboration with local school districts, private and parochial schools, public and school libraries, state departments of education and other educational entities to ensure all children are successful learners, and have the necessary and proper access to technology to enhance their learning. Educational service agencies play different roles related to the Schools and Libraries Program in different states; in some states they are beneficiaries of the program, in others they serve as consultants to applicants, and in some they even act as service providers. This unique membership has provided Dr. Talbott with important insights into the operation of the program from a number of different perspectives.

Prior to joining AESA, Dr. Talbott served as superintendent of Educational Service District 101 where he was responsible for the operation of all programs, providing cooperative services to 59 public school districts and 54 private schools in eastern Washington State. As the agency's chief executive, he served as general manager of the STEP/Star Network, one of the nation's oldest and largest distance learning networks.

cc: [unclear] rec'd 0 + 4  
List A B C D E

Dr. Talbott has also served on the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) Board and is currently Vice-Chair of the Reading is Fundamental (RIFNet) Board, as well as a number of boards in his home state of Washington. In these roles, he has provided valuable leadership to the education community on a variety of critical education and technology issues.

The Education and Libraries Networks Coalition (EdLiNC), a coalition representing the nation's leading education and library associations, strongly supports the reappointment of Dr. Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors. EdLiNC has been working with the Commission to improve the E-rate program since its inception. We believe that Dr. Talbott's broad understanding of education and technology, diligence, hard work, and vision have greatly enriched the work performed by USAC in the past, and will continue to do so into the future. His continued service on the USAC Board will also provide continuity and leadership for the Corporation, in addition to his substantial knowledge and experience leading his fellow board members. For these reasons, we respectfully request your approval of Dr. Talbott's re-nomination to the USAC Board of directors, representing schools that are eligible to receive discounts.

A copy of his professional biography is attached.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Association of School Administrators  
American Library Association  
Association of Educational Service Agencies  
Consortium for School Networking  
Council of Chief State School Officers  
International Society for Technology in Education  
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools  
National Association of Independent Schools  
National Catholic Education Association  
National Education Knowledge Industry Association  
National Education Association  
National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition  
National Rural Education Association  
National School Boards Association  
Organizations Concerned about Rural Education  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Ms. Sheryl Todd, Telecommunications Access Policy Division  
Ms. Marlene Dortch, Office of the Secretary

**Brian L. Talbott**  
PO Box 1309  
Chewelah, WA 99109  
Home: (509) 935-7300  
Office: (703) 875-0739  
btalbott@aesa.us

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## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 1997 to Present      Executive Director of the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA), Arlington, Virginia**  
AESA is a professional association for educational service agencies (ESAs) which represents 551 ESAs in 44 state. The mission of AESA is to serve as the national voice for educational services agencies and to support learning, technical assistance, advocacy, and research for the membership.
- 1982-1998          Superintendent and General Manager STEP•Star Network, Educational Service District 101, Spokane, Washington**  
ESD 101 serves the largest geographic region in Washington State and provides service to 59 local public school districts, 54 private schools, and their respective boards. Responsible for oversight of the largest educational telecommunications network in the nation, coordinating and conducting programs in response to the needs of the educational community, assisting in equalizing educational opportunities and serving as a liaison between local schools and the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- 1976-1982          Superintendent, Educational Service District 105, Yakima, Washington**  
Provide services to 25 local public school districts, 17 private schools, and their respective boards. Represent and provide liaison services between local districts and federal and state education agencies. Full responsibility for management of the educational service district.
- 1975-1976          Instructor: Graduate and Undergraduate Courses University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho**  
Administer student-aid teaching program. Coordinate needs assessment activities and curriculum development projects between local school districts and the university. Instruct in graduate level teacher education program.

- 1972-1975**      **Superintendent, Granger School District, Granger, Washington**  
Full responsibility for all educational programs in a multi-ethnic, multilingual community. Responsibility for modernization of facilities and extensive state and federal programs.
- 1969-1972**      **Principal, Granger High School, Granger, Washington**  
Full responsibility for building-level management. Extensive involvement in student/community projects.
- 1968-1969**      **Vice Principal, Marysville High School, Marysville, Washington**  
Coordinator of building curriculum committee; responsible for student discipline and teacher performance.
- 1965-1968**      **Secondary Teacher, Marysville School District, Marysville, Washington**  
Reading, Social Studies, Language Arts, and coaching responsibilities.

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## **EDUCATION**

- 1976**      Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Administration and Research. College of Education, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.
- 1968**      Master of Arts in Educational Administration. Department of Education, Seattle University, Seattle, Washington.
- 1965**      Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education. Department of Education, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

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## **CERTIFICATIONS**

Superintendent, Principal, Teacher

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## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Association of Educational Service Agencies—Past Council Member and Past President

Reading is Fundamental (RFNet) – Advisory Board Member and Vice-Chairman

United States Distance Learning Association – Past Board Member

Washington State Department of Information Services Technology  
Policy and Review Committee—Past Member

KYVE Public Television Station – Past Board Member and  
Chairman

Washington State School Information Processing Cooperative  
Executive Board— Past Member and Chairman

National Telecommunications Organization—Past Executive Board  
Member

Alaska State Satellite Interconnection Planning Committee—Past  
Member

Washington State University Professional Education Advisory  
Board for Administration—Past Chairman

Washington State Rural Education Center—Past Executive Board  
Member

Gonzaga Professional Education Advisory Board for  
Superintendents—Past Chairman

Northeast Washington Association of School Administrators Past  
Executive Board—Member

Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory—Past Executive Board  
Member

Southwest Regional Laboratory National Telecommunications—  
Expert Panel Member

Spokane Child Sexual Abuse Council—Past Member

State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Council for Post-  
Secondary Education Joint Study Task Force—Past Member

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## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Washington Association of School Administrators Golden Gavel  
Award, 1998

Washington Association of School Administrators State Leadership  
Award, 1996

National Association of Educational Office Professionals National Educational Administrator of the Year, 1994/1995

Washington State University, Cougar Leadership Award, 1994

University of Idaho College of Education Outstanding Educator Award, October 1991

Washington Association of Educational Personnel, 1990 Educational Administrator of the Year

University of Idaho, College of Education, one of ten distinguished alumni, Centennial Commencement Celebration, 1989

Panorama Region (Stevens, Ferry, Pend Oreille counties) 1989/1990 Educator of the Year[

Washington State University, College of Education Dean's Award, 1985

Washington Association of School Administrators Distinguished Leadership Award, 1982

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## PUBLICATIONS

D. Hanna & C. Lutchten. *"Leadership and Management in Open and Flexible Learning"*, book commissioned by Kogn Page, London. 2001 contributed the chapter *"Leading Learning in the Expanded K-12 Class Room."*

Talbott, Brian L. *The Relationship Between Oral Language Proficiency and Achievement in a Bilingual-Bicultural Elementary School: Doctoral Dissertation*. University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho (1976)

Bell, Thomas O.; Doyle, Vincent; and Talbott, Brian L. *Review Essay: The Mat-Sea-Cal Oral Proficiency Tests*. The Modern Language Journal (1977)

Talbott, Brian L. *Assessment: Where Do We Go From Here????* Washington State School Directors Compass, July/August (1977)

Holmes, Nancy and Talbott, Brian L. *Enhancing Quality Education in Rural Washington Schools*. Curriculum in Context, Vol. 13, Issue 1, Spring/Summer (1985)

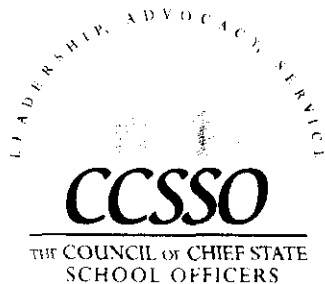
Talbott, Brian L. *Classroom in the Sky*. Curriculum in Context, Vol. 115, Issue 1, Spring/Summer (1987)

Talbott, Brian L. *Stretching Limited Dollars: Finding Money For Your Distance Learning Program*. SAT-LINK, December Issue (1994)

Talbott, Brian L. *ESA Cost-Effectiveness Document in Washington Study*. Perspectives, a Journal of Research and Opinion about Educational Service Agencies (1995)

Miller, Wallace G.; Putnam, Carl; Schultheis, Leigh; and Talbott, Brian L. *The Sky's the Limit*. The American School Board Journal, March Issue (1992).





## COUNCIL OF CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS

One Massachusetts Avenue NW • Suite 700 • Washington, DC 20001-1431

Phone (202) 336-7000 • Fax (202) 408-8072

[www.ccsso.org](http://www.ccsso.org)

October 28, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC  
Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), which represents the nation's top state education officials, is pleased to re-nominate Dr. Brian Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors.

CCSSO submits this recommendation in light of Dr. Talbott's more than 40 years in education and education technology as a teacher, principal, superintendent, university instructor, and policymaker. As you know, Dr. Talbott already plays a critical role as chairman of the USAC Board, as well as representative of schools on the Schools and Libraries Committee, at-large member of the Rural Health Care Committee, and observer on the Audit and High Cost/Low Income Committees. His involvement in each of these committees coupled with his range of expertise makes Dr. Talbott a tremendous asset to USAC and the entire universal service program.

Currently, Dr. Talbott serves as the executive director of the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA). AESA is a unique organization as its members work in collaboration with local school districts, private and parochial schools, public and school libraries, state departments of education, and other educational entities to ensure all children are successful learners and have the necessary and proper access to technology to enhance their learning. Consequently, in his work at the organization, Dr. Talbott is intimately involved in the operation of the universal service program—which further legitimizes his re-nomination to the USAC Board.

CCSSO strongly recommends Dr. Talbott's re-nomination to the USAC Board of Directors. His continued service on the board will provide continuity and leadership for the company, in addition to the substantial knowledge and experience that Dr. Talbott embodies. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our recommendation.

Sincerely,

G. Thomas Houlihan  
Executive Director

October 28, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC, 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors,  
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to support the renomination of Dr. Brian Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company board.

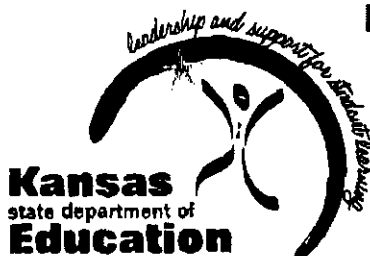
Dr. Talbott has served on the USAC board for a number of years. During his tenure, he has been attentive to and understanding of the needs of private schools regarding the E-rate program, and has been an advocate for many of the issues that are of importance to private schools (such as whether E-rate funds are federal dollars, whether they should be impacted by the Anti-Deficiency Act, and whether the application process can be significantly simplified). Dr. Talbott's own background as an ESA superintendent, where he served both public and private schools, as well as his current position as the head of AESA (many of whose members serve both public and private schools), provides him with the context to understand these critical issues.

As you are doubtless aware, private school participation in the E-rate program is at a much lower rate than public school participation. We believe that this is, in large part, due to the complexity of the application process and the issues surrounding whether E-rate funds are indeed federal funds. These issues pose a significant hurdle for many of the private schools we represent.

We know that Dr. Talbott understands these concerns, and shares our goal of making the E-rate program less susceptible to waste, abuse, and fraud. We therefore ask that you re-appoint him to the USAC board to serve another term.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Council for American Private Education, Joe McTighe  
National Catholic Education Association, Sister Dale McDonald  
National Association of Independent Schools, Amy Sechler  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Father William Davis



## Learning Services Division

785-296-2303  
785-296-1413 (fax)

120 SE 10th Avenue • Topeka, KS 66612-1182 • (785) 296-6338 (TTY) • [www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org)

October 24, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

Please accept this letter of support for Dr. Brian L. Talbott's reappointment to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors as the representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts.

As you are aware, Dr. Talbott currently serves as Chairman of the USAC Board, represents schools on the Board's Schools and Libraries Committee, and is an observer on the Audit and High Cost/Low Income Committees. These experiences are just what is needed to serve on the USAC Board of Directors. Additionally, educators across the United States have known and worked with Dr. Talbott for many years and his experience and knowledge of technology in schools as well as the structures of relevant systems is well known. Further, his service as Executive Director of the national Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs), a network of regional service agencies in 42 states, brings both a wealth of information about the technology needs of schools as well as a wealth of experience in working with representatives of the nation's schools.

As Deputy Commissioner of Learning Services for the Kansas State Department of Education, I can wholeheartedly support his reappointment. He is well qualified to represent the interests of schools on the USAC Board.

Sincerely,

Alexa Posny, Ph.D.  
Deputy Commissioner of Learning Services  
Kansas Department of Education

SUSAN CASTILLO  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Public Service Building, 255 Capitol Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97310  
Phone (503) 378-3569 • Fax (503) 378-5156 • [www.ode.state.or.us](http://www.ode.state.or.us)

October 26, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

*In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors, CC  
Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45.*

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of Oregon's schools and libraries, I strongly support the reappointment of Dr. Brian L. Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors.

As you know, Dr. Talbott currently serves as Chairman of the USAC Board, represents schools on the Board's Schools and Libraries Committee, and is an observer on the Audit and High Cost/Low Income Committees. Dr. Talbott is exceedingly qualified to serve in these capacities, and I believe that his deep understanding of education and technology has greatly benefited the USAC and the students of Oregon.

As Executive Director of the national Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs), a network of regional service agencies in 42 states, Dr. Talbott brings both a wealth of information about the technology needs of schools as well as an ongoing contact with representatives of the nation's schools. His current position—in addition to his past experiences as teacher and school administrator—provides him with in-depth knowledge of educational services. Beginning here in the Pacific Northwest, he has always prioritized the technology needs of our nation's schools.

As Oregon State Superintendent of Public Instruction, I strongly encourage you to reappoint Dr. Brian L. Talbott. If you have any questions about Dr. Talbott's record or impact across the state of Oregon, feel free to contact Rob Larson, Federal Liaison, at (503) 378-3600 ext. 2354 or by email at [rob.larson@state.or.us](mailto:rob.larson@state.or.us).

Sincerely,

Susan Castillo  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

cc: Ed Schmitt



## SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

DR. TERRY BERGESON OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • PO BOX 47200 • OLYMPIA WA 98504-7200 • <http://www.k12.wa.us>

October 24, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

*In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directions, CC  
Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45.*

Dear Chairman Martin:


This letter is written in support of Dr. Brain L. Talbott's reappointment to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors as the representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts.

Dr. Talbott currently serves as Chairman of the USAC Board, represents schools on the Board's Schools and Libraries Committee, and is an observer on the Audit and High Cost/Low Income Committees. Educators and business leaders in Washington State have known and worked with Dr. Talbott for many years and have admired his intellectual and administrative capabilities as well as his personal integrity. He understands the power of technology in schools and the need to properly balance educational needs with those of the telecommunications industry.

As Executive Director of the national Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA), a network of regional service agencies in 42 states, Dr. Talbott brings both a wealth of information about the technology needs of schools as well as an ongoing contact with representatives of the nation's schools. His current position as well as his past experience as a Superintendent of Educational Service for District 101 in Washington provides him with in-depth knowledge of educational services. District 101 was one of the first STEP/Star Network sites, the nation's oldest and largest distance learning networks.

As State Superintendent of Instruction for Washington, I can think of no one better qualified to represent the interests of schools on the USAC Board.

Sincerely,

  
Terry Bergeson  
State Superintendent  
of Public Instruction



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Education

350 Main Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-5023

Telephone: (781) 338-3000  
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

David P. Driscoll  
Commissioner of Education

October 27, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

*In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45.*

Dear Chairman Martin:

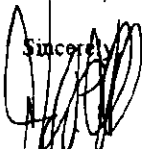
This letter is written in support of Dr. Brian L. Talbott's reappointment to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors as the representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts.

Dr. Talbott currently serves as Chairman of the USAC Board, represents schools on the Board's Schools and Libraries Committee, and is an observer on the Audit and High Cost/Low Income Committees. Educators and business leaders in Massachusetts have known and worked with Dr. Talbott and his organization for many years and have admired his intellectual and administrative capabilities as well as his personal integrity. His experience and knowledge of the use of technology in schools, as well as his understandings of the balance needed for profit organizations and educational organizations to provide high quality services for all communities, is outstanding.

As Executive Director of the national Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs), a network of regional service agencies in 42 states, Dr. Talbott brings both a wealth of information about the technology needs of schools as well as an ongoing contact with representatives of the nation's schools. His current position as well as his past experience as a Superintendent of Educational Service for District 101 in Washington provides him with in-depth knowledge of educational services. District 101 was one of the first STEP/Star Network sites, the nation's oldest and largest distance learning networks.

As Commissioner of Education for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and President of the Chief State School Officers, I can think of no one better qualified to represent the interests of schools on the USAC Board.

Sincerely,

  
David P. Driscoll  
Commissioner of Education

## **E-rate in Massachusetts** ***Critical for Student Improvement***

Since 1998, Massachusetts schools and libraries have received commitments for<sup>1</sup> approximately \$249 million in E-rate discounts.

Funding Year	Telecommunications Service	Internet Access	Internal Connections	Totals
1998-1	\$12,809,518.10	\$2,272,033.37	\$15,008,068.88	\$30,089,620.35
1999-2	\$12,892,719.66	\$1,662,076.69	\$20,762,382.75	\$35,317,179.10
2000-3	\$13,223,190.95	\$12,441,709.87	\$20,726,931.79	\$46,391,832.61
2001-4	\$12,751,027.74	\$12,804,271.73	\$17,909,652.84	\$43,464,952.31
2002-5	\$15,957,232.82	\$3,901,453.60	\$19,638,059.63	\$39,496,746.05
2003-6	\$14,702,854.00	\$5,062,978.00	\$7,258,830.00	\$27,024,662.00
2004-7	\$15,223,025.00	\$4,302,188.00	\$7,750,906.00	\$27,276,119.00
Totals	\$97,559,568.27	\$42,446,711.26	\$109,054,831.89	\$249,061,111.42

Increasingly, Massachusetts districts are recognizing the value of the E-rate discount program, with 81% of Massachusetts districts using it in 2003-2004, compared to 77% in 2002-2003. With discounts based on economic disadvantage and location (urban or rural), some Massachusetts districts are eligible for discounts as high as 90%. The average discount for Massachusetts districts is 60%.

E-rate has provided much-needed connectivity to Massachusetts schools. Moreover, Internet connectivity has become the indispensable means for schools to carry out many critical tasks, such as receiving test results from the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS), providing online data reporting and data analysis, implementing e-learning/distance learning initiatives, and supporting parent-teacher communications.

Here are examples of how Universal Service Fund has helped to improve student learning in Massachusetts schools:

- With support from E-rate Boston Public Schools are able to have 100% of their instructional computers connected to the Internet and 98-99% of their classrooms connected to the Internet. As a result, teachers, principals, and administrators are able to use the district's MyBPS online system. MyBPS is the Boston Public Schools' intranet portal, which provides teachers, administrators, principals, and staff with access to the essential, everyday information and resources they need to enhance teaching and learning across the district. MyBPS is the vehicle that unifies all Boston Public Schools constituents in the improvement of student achievement by using technology to deliver educational tasks. <https://www.mybps.org/MyBPS/GenericModules/DesktopDefault.aspx>
- Springfield Public Schools, the second largest urban school district in the Commonwealth, has benefited substantially from the support of E-rate. In 2000-2001, 43% of Springfield classrooms were connected to the Internet; in 2001-2002, 58% were connected; in 2002-2003, 61% were connected; and in 2003-2004, 63% of their classrooms were connected to the Internet. As a result, not only are Springfield Public Schools able to use their online system for administration (as stated above); they are also able to implement an online project (*The SPS Online Part I I- Enabling the Homebound Student to Achieve*) to support their homebound students. This project has designed and developed curriculum-aligned, online courses for over 100 homebound students. It is giving these students an opportunity to succeed academically in a non-traditional, non-threatening, supportive online environment that would otherwise not be possible. <http://www.doe.mass.edu/edtech/grants/fy05/fc170b.html>
- Plymouth is a rural town in the southeastern part of the state. With the support of E-rate, 100% of its classrooms are now connected to the Internet. Hence Plymouth is able to use the state's distance learning system, "Massachusetts Online Network for Education (MassONE, formerly known as VES, Virtual Education Space)," to allow its teachers and students to take online courses. *Project WEAVES (Writing with Educational Applications in Virtual Education Space)* is one of the online projects that Plymouth has successfully implemented. Writing across the curriculum is the theme for this multidiscipline program. The goal of the project is to provide online professional development to middle and high school teachers to improve all student learning through the development and delivery of online courses focusing on the state's English Language Arts Framework. [http://www.doe.mass.edu/edtech/toolkit/students/VHS\\_atrisk.pdf](http://www.doe.mass.edu/edtech/toolkit/students/VHS_atrisk.pdf)

The E-rate program is definitely an indispensable program in Massachusetts. E-rate is vital to providing quality education for the students of today and tomorrow.

<sup>1</sup> Amounts listed were obtained from the SLD's Data Retrieval Tool and reflect authorized commitments as of August 10, 2005.

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

October 24, 2005

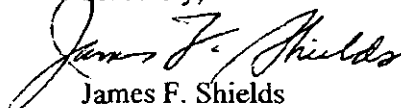
Dear Chairman Martin,

On behalf of the twenty-nine Intermediate Units in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the reappointment of Dr. Brian L. Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors. Intermediate Units are regional education service agencies that work with all 501 school districts in Pennsylvania to provide quality educational programs and services in a cost-effective manner.

In his position as Executive Director of the Association of Educational Service Agencies, Dr. Talbott has been instrumental in assisting educational institutions fully participate in the Schools and Libraries Program. Intermediate Units partner with school districts, libraries and institutions of higher education through this program to provide high quality educational opportunities for all students. Dr. Talbott understands the operation of these partnerships and the value they bring to local communities.

Last year, Pennsylvania reauthorized its telecommunications law. This has provided additional opportunities for our educational institutions to maximize the use of federal and state funds to expand educational programs for students. Dr. Talbott's professional experience provides an invaluable resource as Intermediate Units work with their institutional partners to make these federal and state programs effective. Because of his professional background, Dr. Talbott has an exceptional understanding of how these partnerships work and what they need to be successful. Therefore, the Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units strongly supports the reappointment of Dr. Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

  
James F. Shields  
PAIU Executive Director





Massachusetts  
Organization of  
Educational  
Collaboratives

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Joseph A. Keefe, Ed.D. 191 Bacon Street, Natick, MA 01760 508-653-1747 781-326-2473 FAX: 781-251-0874

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Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Nomination for UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Board and members of the Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives support the reappointment of Dr. Brian L. Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors as the representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts. His work as current chairman of the USAC Board and the efforts that he has demonstrated in this position prompt MOEC's membership to endorse the man's reappointment.

Our membership knows personally of Dr. Talbott's work in his role as Executive Director of the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA). The majority of the educational collaboratives in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, otherwise known as educational service agencies, are members of AESA and have direct involvement in working to bring about collaboration among the various educational agencies that exist in this state. Dr. Talbott's involvement with the hundreds of educational service agencies across the nation gives him unique insights into the application of the Schools and Libraries Program and how it functions in different arenas.

Thus, the Massachusetts Organization of Educational collaboratives respectfully requests your approval of Dr. Brian Talbott's renomination to the USAC Board of Directors, representing schools that are eligible to receive discounts.

Very truly yours,

Joseph A. Keefe, Ed.D., Executive Director  
Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives  
(10.21.05)

cc: Executive Board, MOEC

**Wisconsin Association of CESA Administrators**

October 24, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC, 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

This letter is in support of the reappointment of Dr. Brian Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors. Dr. Talbott has demonstrated his interest and commitment to the improvement of educational services for children and to educational service agencies across the nation. Educational service agencies maintain a direct communication link to local school districts, state departments of education, legislators and many related service organizations. Dr. Talbott's contact with educational service agencies gives him a unique opportunity to monitor educational needs, trends in education, issues related to educational services and to build a stronger bridge for communication across educational agencies.

Dr. Talbott has had extensive experience and training in providing educational services, but what may be most important is how he has applied this experience and training. One only needs to look at Dr. Talbott's accomplishments to see the commitment to improving educational services for children.

The Wisconsin Association of CESA Administrators strongly supports the reappointment of Dr. Brian Talbott to the USAC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

James Larson  
Executive Secretary  
Wisconsin Association of CESA Administrators



1001 Centennial Way, Suite 300  
Lansing, MI 48917  
517-327-5910

---

October 25, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
45 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators (MAISA) is pleased to request your support to reappoint Dr. Brian L. Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors as the representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts.

Dr. Talbott is a true asset to the entire universal service program evidenced by his current role as Chairman of the USAC Board and service as an at-large member of the Rural Health Care Committee, and observer on the Audit and High Cost/Low Income Committees.

As executive director of the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs), of which all 57 ISD/RESAs in Michigan are members, Dr. Talbott has extensive knowledge about the technology needs of both public and private schools and libraries which he brings to this position. Michigan's ISD/RESAs provide a wide variety of support and services to our K-12 districts and the children they serve. Dr. Talbott's knowledge and understanding of these services and supporting activities make him an ideal candidate for this important appointment.

MAISA strongly encourages you to reappoint Dr. Talbott to the USAC Board of Directors. Due to his expertise, leadership and advocacy for the educational community and its mission of service to the children of this nation, we give him our fullest support.

Sincerely,



William Mayes  
Executive Director



Jon Tomlanovich  
Associate Executive Director



# SOUTHEAST EDUCATION ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 250  
Kenansville, NC 28349  
(910) 296-0228 • Fax (910) 296-0864

Linda G. Lowe  
Executive Director

E-mail: [llowe@jscc.cc.nc.us](mailto:llowe@jscc.cc.nc.us)

October 24, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: The Re-Nomination of Dr. Brian L. Talbott to Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Martin:

As current Chairman of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors, Dr. Brian L. Talbott has served diligently and faithfully to represent the needs of schools across this nation that are eligible for discounts. This letter is written to encourage you to have him continue on the Board.

Our Southeast Education Alliance serves a number of small, rural school systems in southeastern North Carolina. These, and many other school systems across our state, benefit greatly from the discounts they receive. Dr. Brian Talbott, as Executive Director of the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs), is able to share insights about the program with us and can then deliver the perspective of Educational Service Agencies (ESAs) back to the USAC Board. This has proven to be of tremendous benefit to ESAs.

Dr. Talbott has a long history of working with technology-related learning programs and is widely respected by his colleagues in the education community. We believe that the USAC would be well served to have him be on the Board of Directors and provide vision for the future.

Thank you for your consideration of the re-nomination of Dr. Brian L. Talbott to the USAC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Linda G. Lowe, Executive Director



October 25, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC, 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors,  
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Martin:

It is my privilege to recommend the reappointment of Dr. Brian L. Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors as the representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts. As Executive Director of Region 4 Education Service Center which serves 54 school districts representing approximately 1,000,000 students, 75,000 professional educators and over 1200 campuses, I have worked closely with Dr. Talbott and found him to be a champion for education.

Dr. Talbott's wealth of knowledge and experience is a tremendous asset to the USAC. His vision for providing affordable telecommunication services to diverse communities throughout our nation is pinnacle to enhancing the education of all students in all types of educational settings. While presently serving as chair for the USAC Board of Directors, Dr. Talbott strives to make sure that affordable telecommunications services are provided to every state and territory in the United States. Dr. Talbott's experiences as a public school superintendent, as superintendent in two different education service agencies in Washington state, and now as Executive Director of the Association of Educational Service Agencies have given him both hands-on experience and a broad picture of the technological needs of all communities—including rural communities, remote communities, and low-income areas.

While superintendent of STEP-Star Network at Education Service District 101 in Spokane, Washington, Dr. Talbott was responsible for the oversight of the largest educational telecommunications network in the nation. In that role, he coordinated and conducted programs in response to the needs of the educational community and served as liaison between local schools and five State Superintendent of Public Instruction offices (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington).

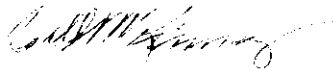
*The answer is 4.*

Region 4 Education Service Center • 7145 West Tidwell Road • Houston, TX 77092-2096  
Phone: 713-462-7708 • Fax: 713-744-6514 • [www.theansweris4.net](http://www.theansweris4.net)  
Bill McKinney, Ph.D. – *Executive Director*

Dr. Talbott has shared his talents with a number of Boards involved with telecommunications. He is currently Vice-Chair of the Advisory Board for Reading is Fundamental (RFNet). He has served on the boards of the United States Distance Learning Association, Washington State Department of Information Services Technology Policy and Review Committee, the National Telecommunications Organization, the Alaska State Satellite Interconnection Planning Committee, and been an expert panel member for the Southwest Regional Laboratory National Telecommunications.

Without hesitation, I strongly recommend that you re-appoint Dr. Talbott to the USAC Board of Directors. He brings a long history of educational excellence and stands tall as a champion for affordable telecommunications for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill McKinney", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bill McKinney



Pioneer Regional Educational Service Agency

P. O. Box 1789  
1342 Highway 254  
Cleveland, GA 30528-0033  
Phone: (706) 865-2141  
Toll-Free: (866) 812-RESA  
Fax: (706) 865-6748

Sandy Addis  
Director

October 24, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC, 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

This letter is to encourage you to reappoint Dr. Brian L. Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors as the representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts.

Dr. Talbott currently serves as Chairman of the USAC Board. In this capacity, he ably represents schools and educational service agencies. As executive director of the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA), Dr. Talbott knows the needs of public schools, private schools, and libraries. He knows the complexity and diversity of educational service patterns across different states. His experiences as a teacher, principal, system superintendent, and superintendent of educational service districts uniquely qualifies him for continued service on the USAC Board of Directors.

As state leader for Georgia's Regional Educational Service Agencies (RESAs), which are members of the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA), I am aware of Dr. Talbott's knowledge, expertise, and ability to appropriately represent schools and the agencies that serve them. The leaders of Georgia RESAs feel that Dr. Talbott is an asset to the USAC Board and to the universal service program. We enthusiastically support his reappointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Addis".

Sandy Addis, Ed.D.

**High Plains Regional Education Cooperative #3  
Raton, New Mexico**

October 24, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

This letter is concerning the reappointment of Dr. Brian L. Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors as the representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts.

I feel that Dr. Brian Talbott is a tremendous asset to the Board and to the entire Universal Service program. Dr. Talbott is currently serving as Chairman of the ASAC Board, represents schools on the Board's Schools and Libraries Committee, serves as a member of the Rural Health Care Committee, and serves as an observer on the Audit and High Cost/Low Income Committees.

Dr. Talbott's understanding of education and technology, along with his work experience and vision have proven incredible assets to the work by USAC in the past and will undoubtedly continue to be in the future.

Please consider this as a request for the re-nomination of Dr. Talbott for the USAC Board of Directors, representing schools that are eligible to receive discounts. Thank you.

Sincerely,

R. Stephen Aguirre  
Executive Director  
High Plains Regional Education Cooperative #3



## **SW/WC Service Cooperative Marshall, Minnesota**

October 26, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC, 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors,  
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Martin:

It is my pleasure to write on behalf of all of Minnesota's Educational Service Agencies to voice our hope that you will reappoint Dr. Brian Talbott to the Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, representing schools that are eligible to receive discounts.

I have personally worked with Dr. Talbott for over ten years and have had ample opportunity to observe and assess his effectiveness. No doubt you have received letters of support from others listing his many accomplishments. It is the belief of the Minnesota agencies that we could not have a better, more fair representative than Dr. Talbott. He has the knowledge, skills and abilities to adequately represent schools on the board and we fully support his reappointment.

The Minnesota Educational Service Agencies represent the entire state of Minnesota and provide services to our districts, public and private as well as libraries. We generally provide consultant service to our members in the area covered by the universal service program. We believe that Dr. Talbott is uniquely positioned to understand the needs and issues surrounding the E-rate program and has worked with the Commission to improve the program. We ask for your approval of Dr. Brian Talbott's re-nomination to the Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Lee Warne  
Executive Director  
SW/WC Service Cooperative  
Marshall, Minnesota

**REGION 8 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER**

*Rodger E. Smith, EdD, Executive Director*

*Linda Michael, Program Director*

*Phil Germann, Technology Director*

*Web: <http://www.r8esc.k12.in.us>*

*5122 Homestead Road*

*Fort Wayne, IN 46814*

*Phone: 260-439-8800*

*800-669-4565*

*FAX: 260-439-8801*

October 20, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC, 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors,  
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

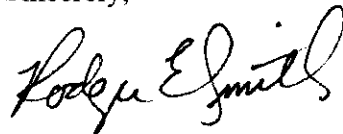
Dear Chairman Martin:

Please accept this letter in support of the re-appointment of Dr. Brian Talbott to the Board of Directors for the Universal Service Administrative Company. As an educator with experience at every level of service Brian is an excellent representative of the schools that are eligible to receive discounts.

I have known Brian since shortly after he assumed the role of Executive Director for the Association of Educational Service Agencies. He is an articulate spokesperson for our association and truly dedicated to the interests of the schools and students we serve. Prior to his current role he served as general manager of one of the largest distance learning networks in the country in his role as superintendent of Educational Service District 101 in the State of Washington. His service to education is long and distinguished.

The issue of connectivity for schools, libraries, and other affected organizations is too important not to have the very best individuals to serve. Dr. Brian Talbott is such an individual. I recommend him for consideration without reservation.

Sincerely,



Rodger E. Smith, EdD.  
Chairperson  
Indiana Association of Education Service Centers

*Serving schools in Adams, Allen, Blackford, Dekalb, Grant,  
Huntington, Jay, Kosciusko, Madison, Miami, Noble,  
Steuben, Wabash, Wells, and Whitley Counties*

October 24, 2005

CENTRAL  
SUSQUEHANNA  
INTERMEDIATE  
UNIT

P.O. Box 213  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
570-523-1155  
FAX 570-524-7104  
www.csiu.org

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554



ENRICHING  
LEARNING . . .  
ENRICHING  
LIVES

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors,  
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing you to add my support for the re-appointment of Dr. Brian L. Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors as the representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts.

As the Executive Director of a Pennsylvania Intermediate Unit, I have had involvement with the USAC in the past years, including through staff members who have given testimony during hearings for E-rate in Washington, DC. During this time, I have watched Dr. Talbott bring leadership to the USAC and commitment to its successful operation. I echo the sentiment of many who feel he is a tremendous asset to the Board and to the entire universal service program.

Additionally, I have served with Dr. Talbott on the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs) Executive Council on two different occasions. In this capacity, I have come to know that Dr. Talbott is well-informed on educational issues and understands the wide variety of school district needs across the United States. This depth of knowledge about educational needs and challenges, plus his past experiences as an educational administrator at the school district and Educational Service Agency levels, only serve to enhance his role as a representative for schools and as a leader on the USAC Board.

I hope you agree that Dr. Talbott's vision and hard work have enriched the work performed by the USAC and will approve his re-nomination to the USAC Board of Directors. If I can be of additional assistance, I welcome your call to me at (570) 523-1155, ext. 2301.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert G. Witten', is written above the printed name.

Robert G. Witten, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

CENTRAL  
SUSQUEHANNA  
INTERMEDIATE  
UNIT

P.O. Box 213  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
570-523-1155  
FAX 570-524-7104  
www.csiu.org



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ENRICHING  
LIVES

October 24, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors,  
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing to urge you to reappoint Dr. Brian L. Talbott as the school representative to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors.

In May of 2004, I had the opportunity and privilege of testifying before the FCC as part of a panel at a hearing on waste, fraud and abuse of the E-rate program. I applaud the FCC for their foresight and willingness to allow schools to have the opportunity to share their input on E-rate, and more importantly for their willingness to implement the suggestions for improvement.

I am also pleased that the FCC has formulated a responsive USAC Board with informed, committed members, such as Dr. Talbott. Dr. Talbott understands the diverse nature of school districts throughout the entire United States and the challenges associated with implementing technology from both the technology and people perspectives. He also understands the role and importance that E-rate has in education, and his educational background truly compliments the other members of USAC.

Dr. Talbott's experience and leadership skills will continue to ensure that the E-rate program is a responsive and effective resource for schools and libraries throughout the United States. For this reason, I respectfully request your approval of Dr. Brian Talbott to be re-nominated to the USAC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Craven', is written over a horizontal line.

Geoff Craven  
Telecommunications Manager



*Southeast Kansas  
Education Service Center*

[www.greenbush.org](http://www.greenbush.org)

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October 28, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC, 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors,  
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center-Greenbush, Girard, Kansas, I strongly support the nomination of Dr. Brian Talbott to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors.

In his capacity as Chairman of the USAC Board, Dr. Talbott has provided tremendous leadership in assisting school districts, especially rural and small schools, take full advantage of the universal service program. Dr. Talbott's leadership and experience in working with Education Service Agencies has proved to be invaluable in promoting collaboration among schools that otherwise would not be able to access the range of educational technologies needed to increase student learning.

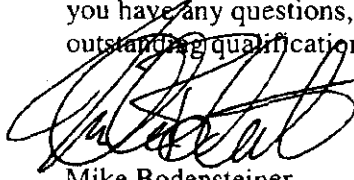
One of Dr. Talbott's greatest assets is access to a nationwide network of Education Service Agencies, under the professional umbrella of the Association of Education Service Agencies. Education Service Agencies across the country share the common mission of assisting school districts provide educational opportunities for all students. Literally thousands of schools across the country benefit from collaborative programs that are made possible through Education Service Agencies. This is particularly true relative to the Universal Service Program through which Education Service Agencies have supported schools in the configuration, purchase, and implementation of learning technology that otherwise would not have been available to a school district working alone.

October 28, 2005  
Chairman Kevin Martin  
Page 2


The Southeast Kansas Education Service Center possesses all of the right and privileges of a school districts, except the power to levy taxes. Schools can participate in any number of more than 200 educational programs ranging from distance education and online-learning to parent education and cooperative purchasing. With no base membership fee or state administrative support, schools districts only pay for only those services that meet local need. Nearly two-thirds of all Kansas schools contract from some service from Greenbush.

The Greenbush E-rate Consortium offers more than 45 Kansas schools assistance in filling out and submitting their e-rate applications. The Greenbush E-rate Consortium assists schools in filling out their Form 470 and Form 471, while providing consultation in their bidding proposals. Greenbush personnel serve as the liaison between the Schools and Libraries Division and the school district during the program review process. Once the district has received their funding commitment letter, the Consortium assists schools in filling out their Form 486 and 472. The Greenbush E-rate Consortium also provides on-line phone support to numerous districts throughout the state during the entire funding year.

Thank you for your consideration of the nomination of Dr. Talbott to the Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors. Please do not hesitate to contact one of us if you have any questions, or if we can provide additional information regarding the outstanding qualifications of Dr. Talbott.



Mike Bodensteiner  
Associate Executive Director



Denise Grasso  
Director, Greenbush Learning Resources